BABEL NO TOSHOKAN
"THE LIBRARY OF BABEL"
BY TSUBANA
CHAPTER 10

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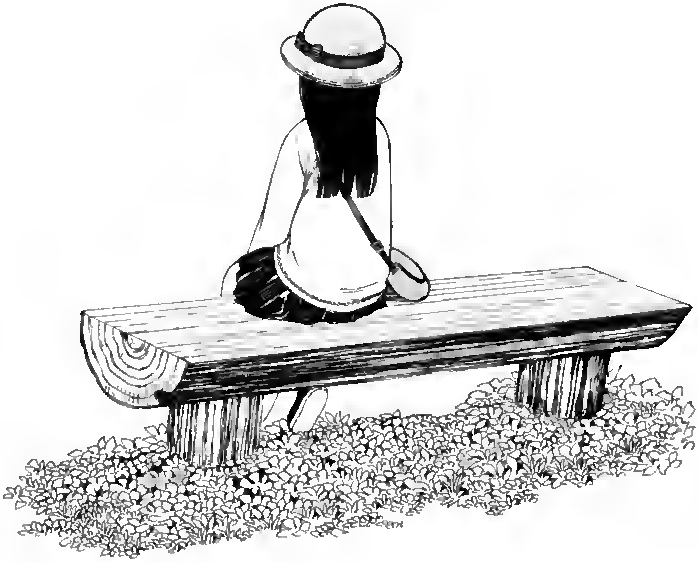
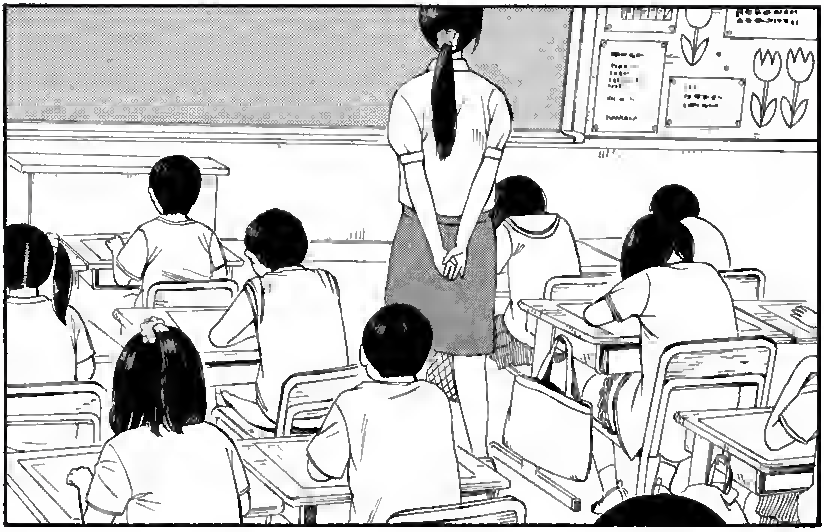
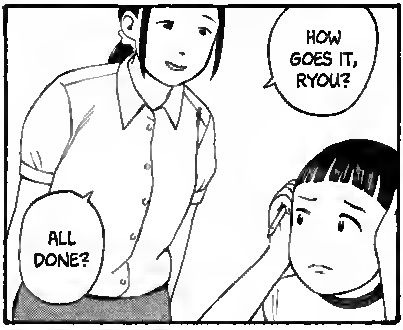
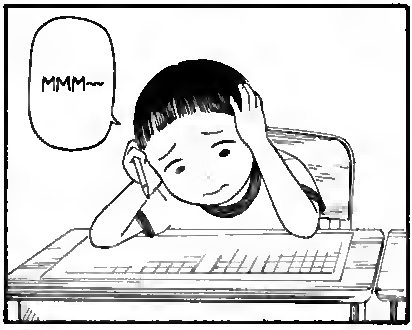
lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

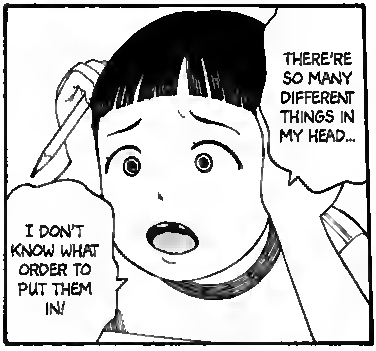
La biblioteca de Babel **Book. 10**

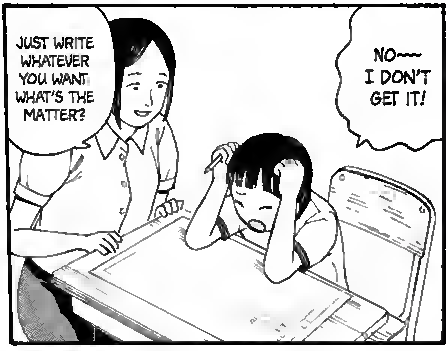





HOW GOES IT, RYOU?
ALL DONE?


MMM~~


THERE'RE SO MANY DIFFERENT THINGS IN MY HEAD...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT ORDER TO PUT THEM IN!

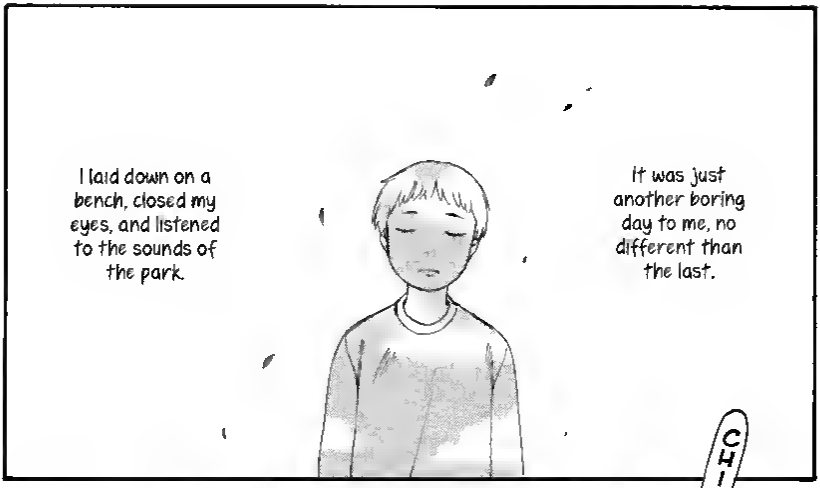

JUST WRITE WHATEVER YOU WANT. WHAT'S THE MATTER?
NO~~~ I DON'T GET IT!

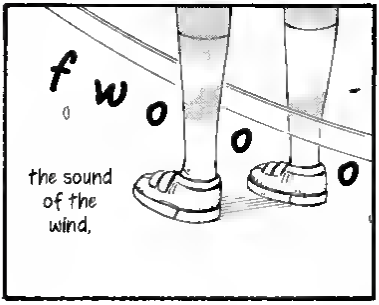
EVERYONE, LISTEN UP.
HMM, THE ORDER...
WHAT ORDER?
IS A PRETTY BIG DEAL. IT CAN BE HARD.
PUTTING YOUR THOUGHTS INTO WORDS
THE MORE YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THE HARDER IT GETS, AM I RIGHT?
THE QUESTION IS, WHAT SHOULD YOU WRITE?
AND THE THINGS YOU REALLY REGRET...
THE TIMES YOU'RE HAVING FUN AND LAUGHING,
WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THE HAPPY TIMES AND THE HARD TIMES,
YEAH
THAT'S RIGHT...

I GUESS IT DOES GET HARD, HUH
WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT ARRANGING THE SIMPLE WORDS YOU'VE LEARNED TO EXPRESS THAT,
FWSH
WRITING'S KIND OF LIKE A PUZZLE, ISN'T IT?

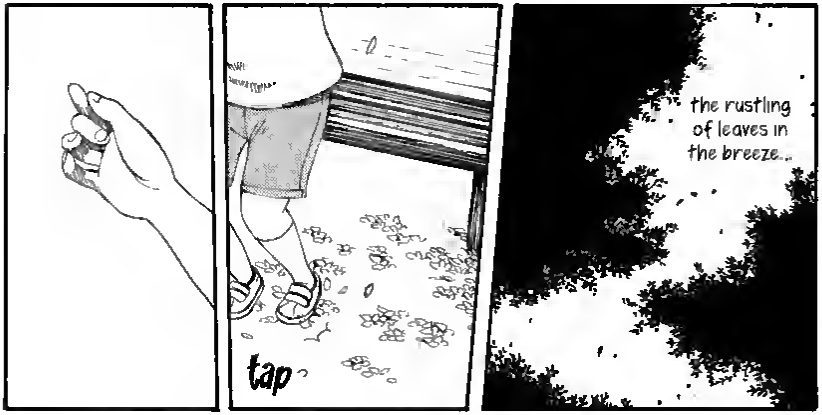
JUST GO AHEAD AND WRITE IT OUT LIKE YOU'RE SPEAKING IT.
SO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WRITE IT OUT REALLY PRETTY!
IF YOU DO IT LIKE THAT, YOU'LL BE WRITING HOW YOU REALLY FEEL.
I HOPE YOU'LL WRITE LOTS AND LOTS SO YOUR CHILDHOOD TREASURES WILL PILE UP!
IT'LL BECOME A CHERISHED MEMORY OF YOURS.
AND WHENEVER YOU LOOK AT IT, IT'LL BRING YOU RIGHT BACK TO THE TIME YOU WROTE IT AND HOW YOU FELT THEN.

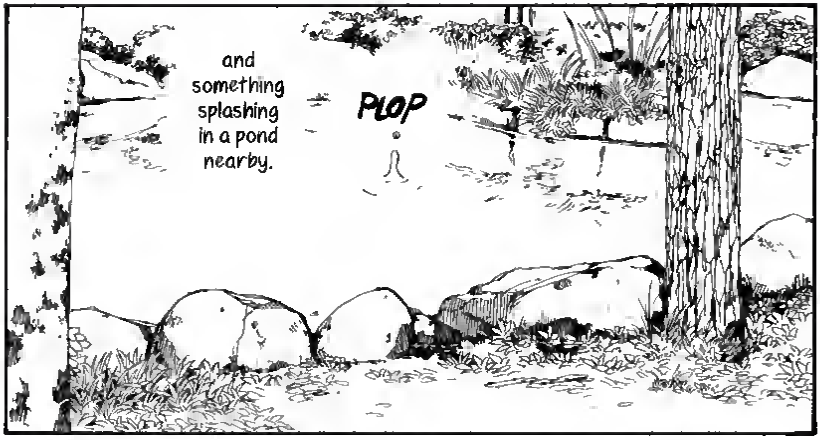
I SEE YOU BROUGHT RYOU AGAIN?
YUP. HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TO DO THESE DAYS, SO HE WANTS TO COME.
A ha ha ha
HELLO.
i know this is sudden, but I want to tell you
about the day I saw an angel
tap

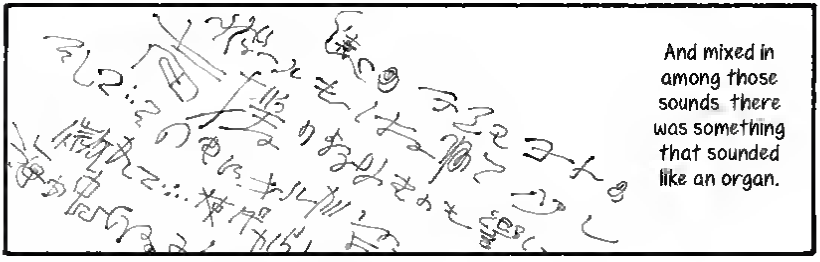

I laid down on a bench, closed my eyes, and listened to the sounds of the park.
It was just another boring day to me, no different than the last.


f w o o o
the sound of the wind,

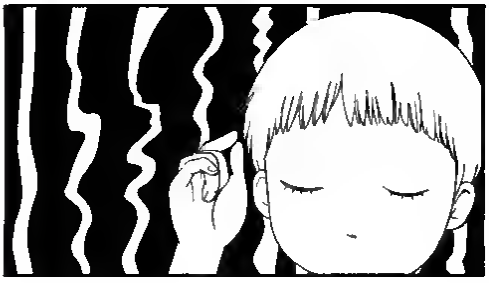
CHIRP
The birds singing

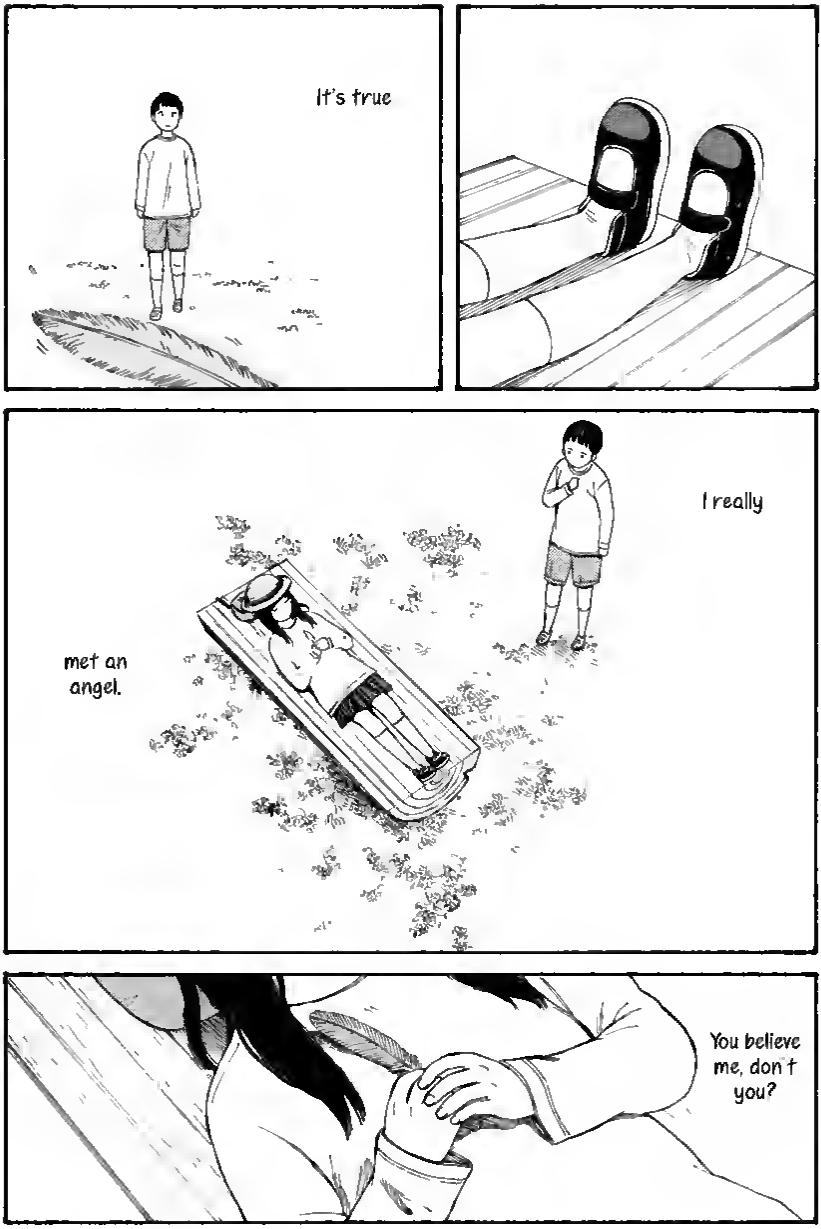

tap
the rustling of leaves in the breeze...

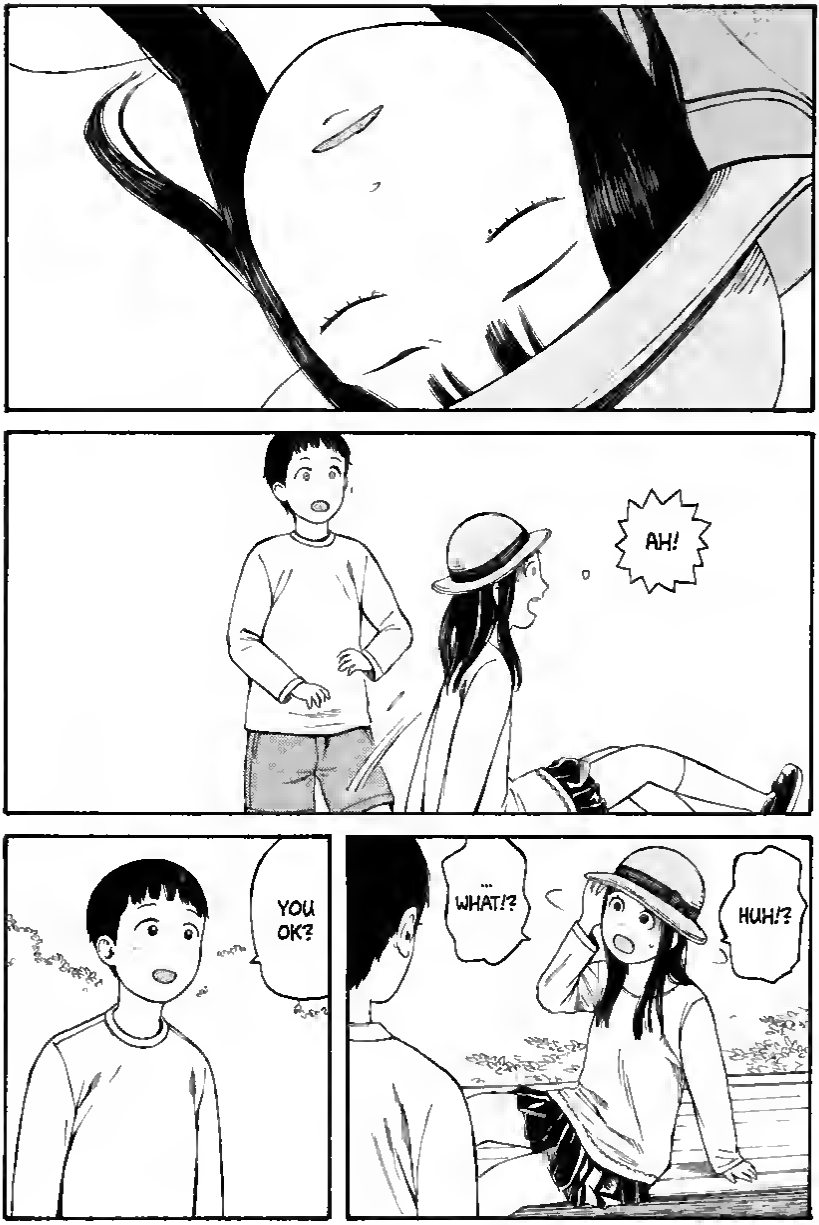

and something splashing in a pond nearby.
PLOP

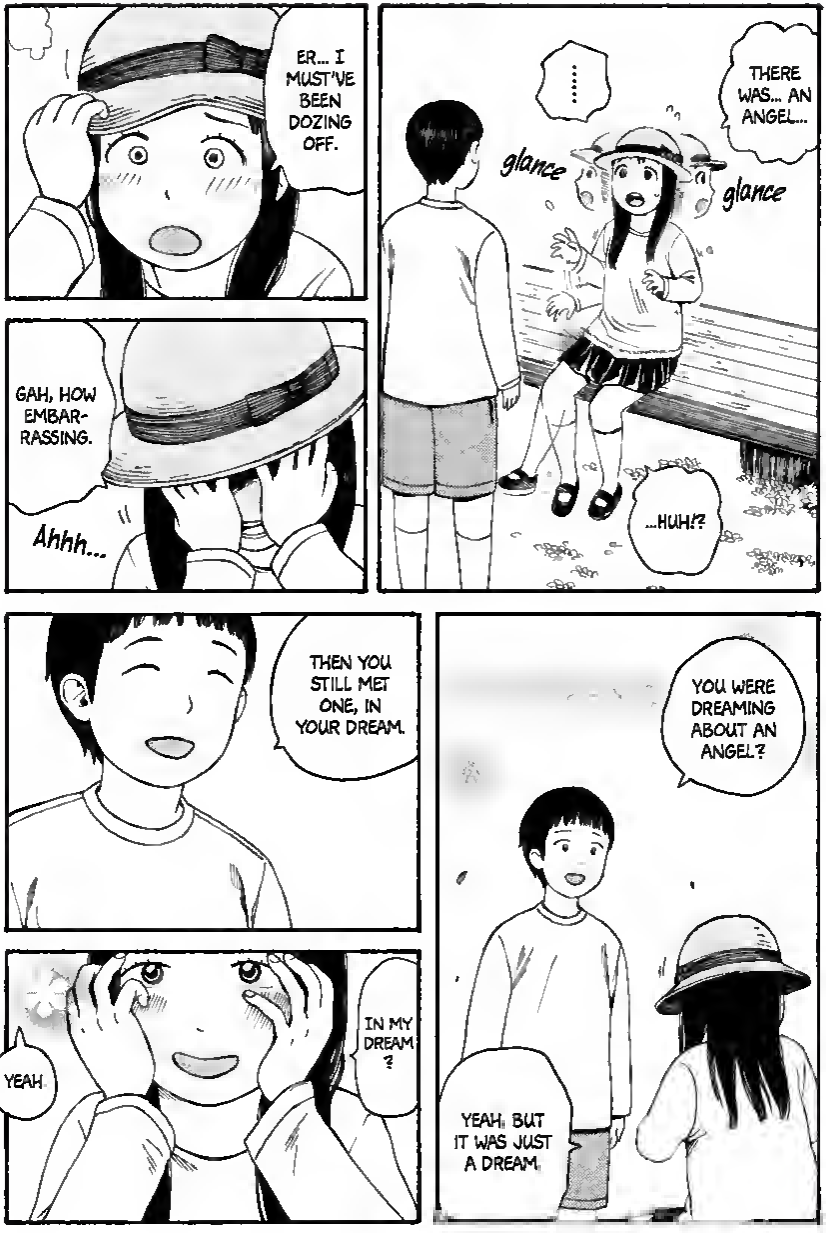

And mixed in among those sounds there was something that sounded like an organ.

It was the song of an angel.




It's true
I really
met an angel.
You believe me, don't you?


AH!
YOU OK?
...WHAT!?
HUH!?

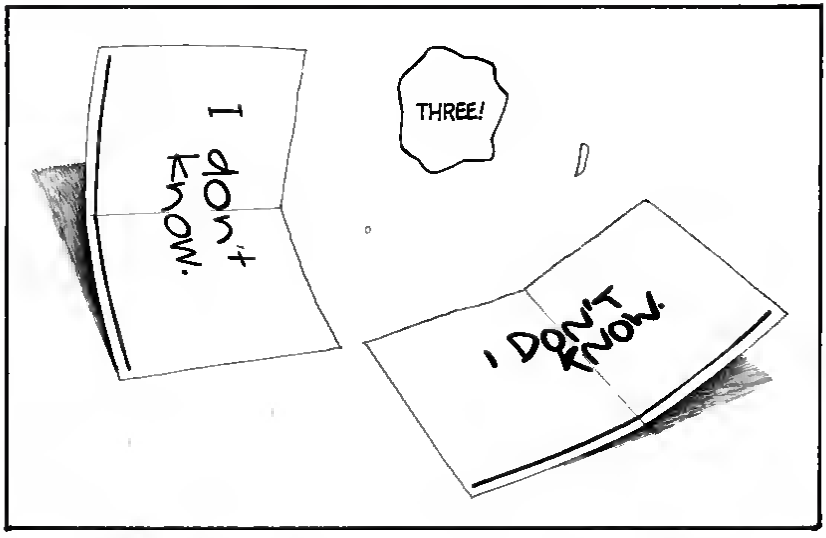

ER... I MUST'VE BEEN DOZING OFF.
THERE WAS... AN ANGEL...
glance
glance
.....
...HUH!?
GAH, HOW EMBAR-RASSING.
Ahhh...
THEN YOU STILL MET ONE, IN YOUR DREAM.
YOU WERE DREAMING ABOUT AN ANGEL?
IN MY DREAM?
YEAH.
YEAH, BUT IT WAS JUST A DREAM.

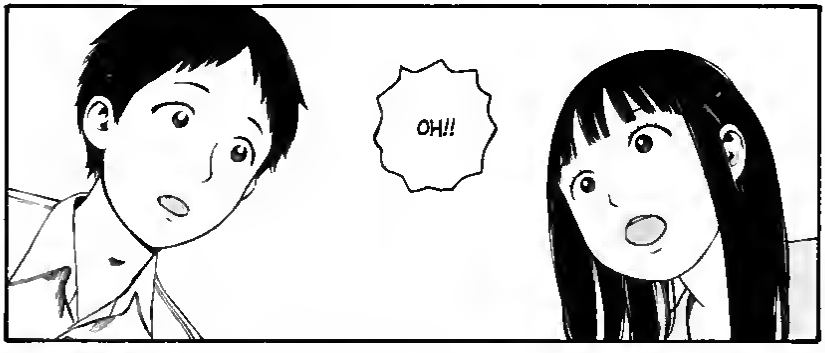
Staff
WERE YOU TWO PLANNING ON HAVING A GOOD LAUGH AT MY EXPENSE?
IN THAT CASE, I WANT TO DO IT AGAIN!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
IT WAS SUCH A GREAT DREAM!
AND YOU'RE TELLING ME IT'S A COINCIDENCE THAT IT'S IDENTICAL WORD FOR WORD?
IT'S A 400 CHARACTER ESSAY,
I WANT NEW ESSAYS BY TOMORROW
ENOUGH WITH THE MONKEY BUSINESS!
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU TWO GETTING ALONG SO WELL, BUT...

I MEAN, WHAT DO YOU THINK THE ODDS ARE...?
IT REALLY IS WEIRD...
AND THE WORDS THEMSELVES ARE AN ARRANGEMENT OF LETTERS ...
YEAH...
HM?
YOU KNOW, EVEN IF IT IS COINCIDENCE ...
HUH? WHAT'S WITH YOU?
haha
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S LIKE THE SAME ODDS AS FATE STEPPING IN TO BRING TWO PEOPLE TOGETHER?

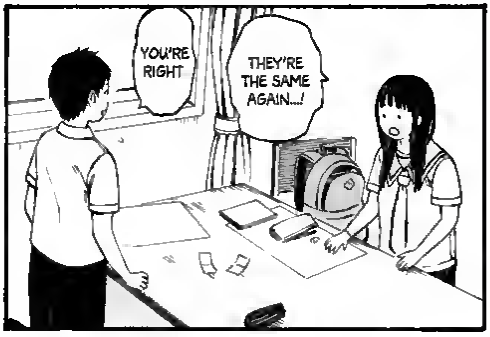
WE'LL EACH WRITE OUT A COUPLE WORDS WITHOUT WATCHING EACH OTHER
HOW ABOUT WE TEST IF WE CAN GET THE SAME AGAIN?
OH, I KNOW!
THEN MAYBE YOU AND I WERE DESTINED TO MEET!
AND IF IT'S THE SAME AGAIN,
AHA, YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT.

SLIDE
I'M DONE!
ME TOO.
LET'S TURN THEM OVER ON THREE.
SURE.
ONE, TWO.


I don't know.
THREE!
I DON'T KNOW.

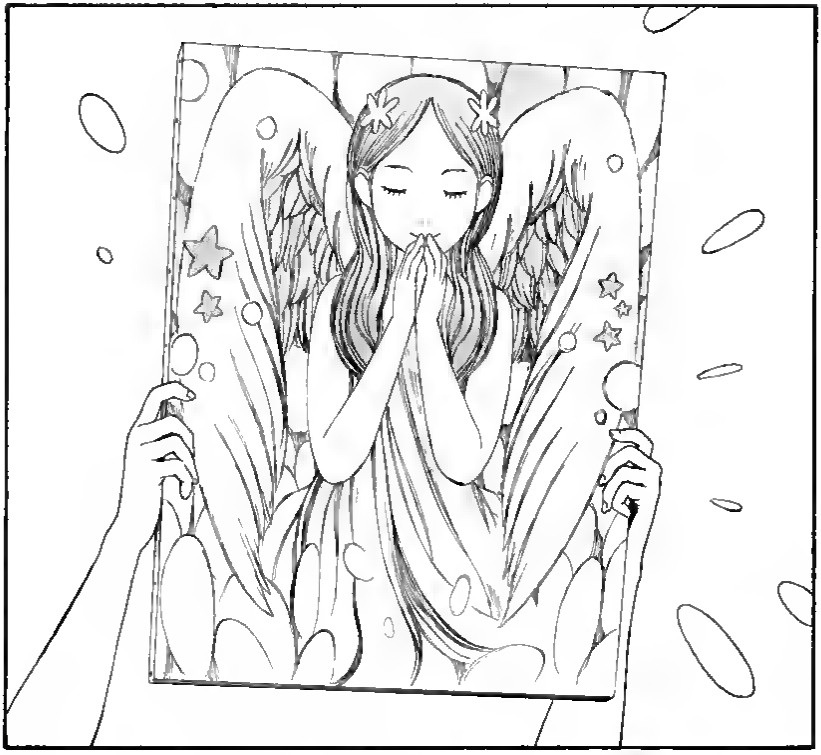

OH!!

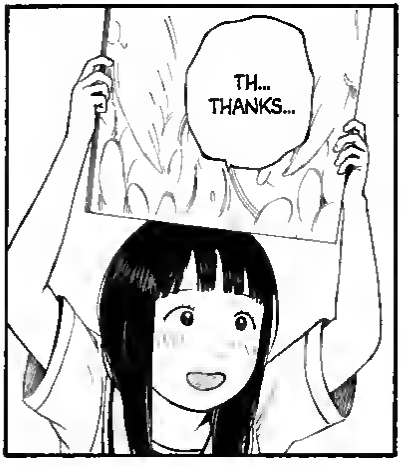
HAH!
EHEHE HE..!!


YOU'RE RIGHT
THEY'RE THE SAME AGAIN...!

Midterm Exams Ranking
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
AHAHA ...
YOU MUST'VE CHEATED
THAT'S MY ACTUAL SKILL LEVEL.
1 Adachi Hiroaki
2 Iwaki Kaori
3 Watase Ryou
OH!
4 Yamashita Takashi
5 Kubosawa Mamiko
6 Katayama Yuu
7 Nishikino Tetsu
BUT... I DIDN'T EVEN MEAN TO ENTER!
THEN YOU'VE GOT LUCK ON YOUR SIDE TOO, EH?
Wow!
clap
AMAZING!
clap
clap

YEAH.
YOU WON FIRST PLACE! YOU SHOULD HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE.
GO AHEAD AND SHOW IT TO EVERYONE!
OK.



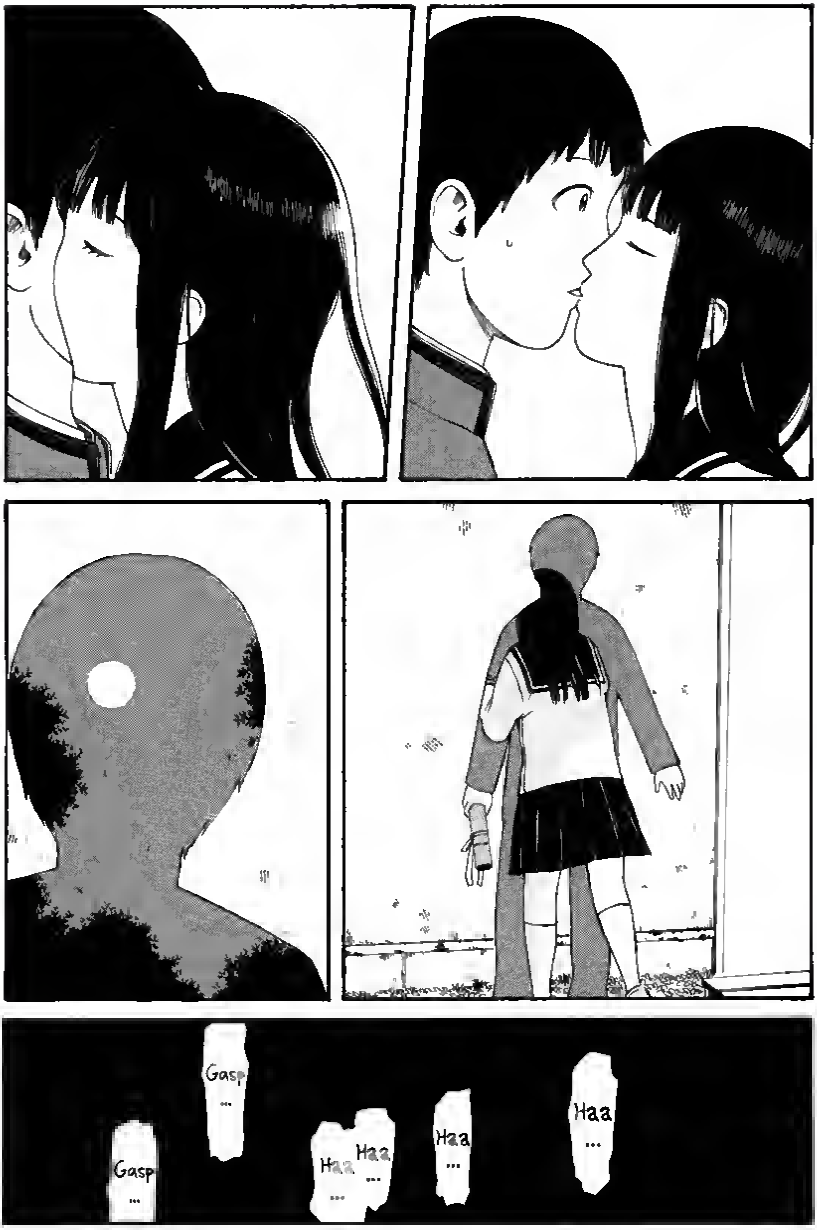

TH... THANKS...

THAT'S REALLY GOOD!
clap
clap

AHAHA!
Uraba Middle 53rd Annual
Graduation Ceremony
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
LISTEN TO YOURSELF! THIS IS THE LAST TIME WE'LL WEAR THEM.
OUR SLIPPERS WILL GET DIRTY.
SEE, NO ONE'S HERE.
YEAH.
THE BREEZE FEELS GREAT!

WANT TO KISS?

HEY, WATASE.
...HM?
ARE YOU
THE GATEWAY?
HUH?


Gasp ...
Gasp ...
Haa ...
Haa ...
Haa ...
Haa ...

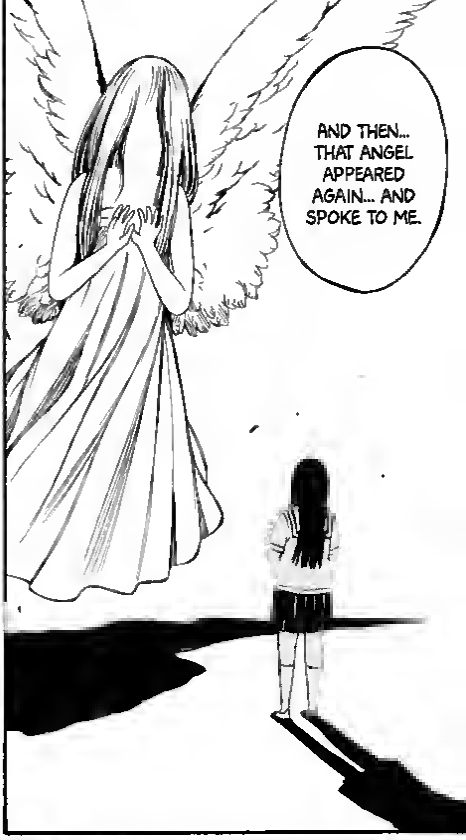
Gasp ...
Gasp ...
Gasp ...
Gasp ...
Gasp ...
Gasp ...
Gasp ...
Haa ...
Haa
HA! ...
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!

Haa
...

I'VE BEEN THINKING, IT'S THANKS TO THAT DREAM THAT I MET YOU, RYOU.
HUH? YEAH...
REMEMBER I TOLD YOU I DREAMED ABOUT AN ANGEL?
YOU KNOW, ALL THOSE YEARS AGO WHEN I FELL ASLEEP ON THAT PARK BENCH...
BUT DREAMS LEAVE ME SAD.
HUH? OF COURSE IT WAS JUST A DREAM...
WAS THAT REALLY A DREAM?
AND THEN YOU WAKE UP, AND IT'S ALL GONE.
YOU TOUCH SOMETHING, OR SOMETHING LOVELY HAPPENS...

OH, THAT'S RIGHT. THAT ANGEL I SAW IN THE DREAM,
I DREAMT ABOUT IT ONE MORE TIME AFTER THAT...
...YEAH... I GUESS...
DREAMS ARE DREAMS.
WE HAVE TO FIND HAPPINESS HERE.
EVEN IF THERE IS SOME OTHER WORLD SOMEWHERE,
I WAS IN A BLACK MOOD OVER SOME-THING...
AND INCREDIBLY ANGRY...
HUH?
I HAD A RAZOR BLADE OR KNIFE... SOMETHING SHARP... IN MY HAND...
IN THAT DREAM... WELL...
THE KNIFE IN MY HAND TRANSFORMED INTO A FLOWER...
AND THEN THE WORLD WENT
POW!
...IT WAS ENGULFED IN LIGHT...

IT SAID, "YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED."
"BEHOLD, THIS IS THE SECRET PATH OF ANGELS."

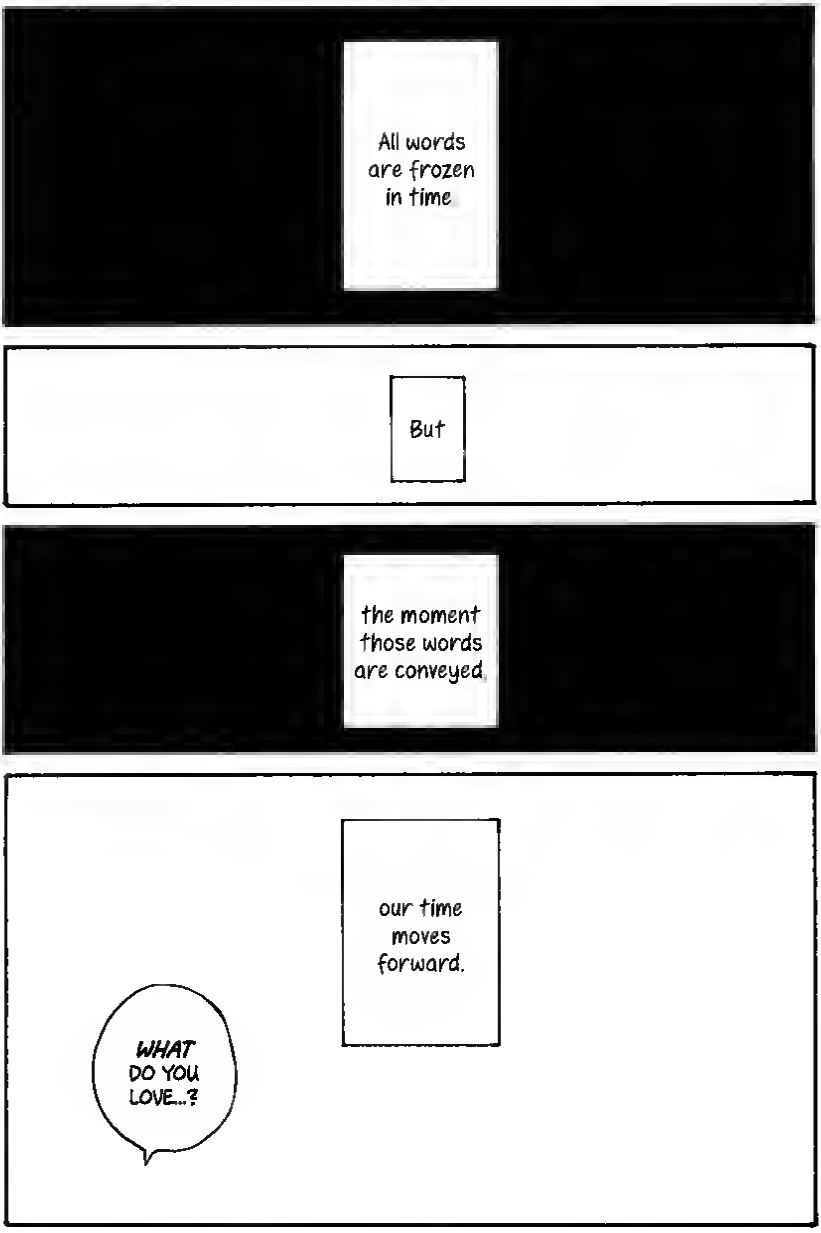

AND THEN... THAT ANGEL APPEARED AGAIN... AND SPOKE TO ME.

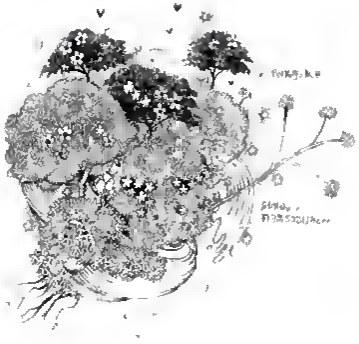
Y... YEAH.
..SEE? IT'S AWFUL...
MAYBE I'M WEIRD, BUT I JUST KEEP THINKING ABOUT IT... AND I CAN'T STOP TEARING UP.

THAT WAS LAST SUMMER, I THINK...
AND WHEN I WOKE UP, YOUR FACE FLOATED INTO MY MIND, RYOU...

BUT FOR SOME REASON, MY HEART FILLED WITH WARMTH...
I DIDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND IT...

OH...
AND YOUR FACE WHEN THIS PAINTING WON THE AWARD LOOKED EXACTLY THE SAME!
THEY'RE GOOD NO MATTER WHAT!
THEY MIGHT BE THE ONLY THING THAT COULD TRAVEL TO US FROM ANOTHER WORLD SOMEWHERE IN THE GALAXY.
OH! BUT WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT..
WORDS ARE THE ONE THING THAT ARE REAL EVEN WHEN THEY'RE IN A DREAM.
YEAH.
YOU KNOW...
I LOVE IT.


All words are frozen in time
But
the moment those words are conveyed
our time moves forward.
WHAT DO YOU LOVE...?



When I think up a story, I go through multiple options in my head, making decisions and then changing my mind.
The plot points and endings that I don't pick are left floating around in my head, and I'm sure that someday they'll fizzle out.
But every so often, I think about those worlds I didn't pick.
I feel like those formless worlds actually continue on endlessly in some unknown place.
So I wanted to draw a story that reached out to those tales that weren't chosen.
When I create something, it's a constant balance between what to choose and what to discard.
I think it's just lovely that throughout the world, day after day, so many people pick and choose different stories in their heads, on paper, or on a computer. Those non-existent worlds (even if they're just a tad different from this one), their sounds and pictures and light, are laid out one scene at a time.
It always gives me joy to know that there are people who take them and turn them into books and whatnot so those stories exist here.
To everyone who helps produce these works, and to all the readers, thank you!
Next time I hope to draw something a bit more light-hearted (haha).
The end.

Tsubana